

The Rocky Hill Town Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 20, 2014 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Mayor Henry Vassel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance: Deputy Mayor Nadine Bell, Councilor Meg Casasanta, Councilor Joe Kochanek, Councilor Bill MacDonald, Councilor Tim Moriarty, Councilor Frank Szeps and Councilor Cathy Vargas. Also present: Town Manager Guy Scaife and Finance Director John Mehr.

Those absent: Councilor Guy Drapeau.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Vassel asked for a Moment of Silence to be observed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Appointments/Resignations

Mayor Vassel is going to have a Liaison Committee for the Miracle League Field and that will be made up of Brian Dillon (Board of Education), Allan Greenspan (Parks and Recreation) and Dave Sevigny (Little League). That Committee will be reporting to the Government Operations Committee.

The Charter Revision Committee will be made up of both the Majority and the Minority Parties. Mayor Vassel told the public that if any of them would like to be on this for them to e-mail Town Manager Scaife, who will hold all of the applications and also confirm with the public that he has received their e-mails. Mayor Vassel is thinking of having five members on this Committee, of which three will be Democrats and two will be Republicans. Councilor Moriarty asked if the Chairs of the Town Parties have been contacted. Mayor Vassel said he hasn't contacted them. Councilor Moriarty said this Committee needs to be picked by the two Town Parties and he thinks that the two Chairs of the Town Committees need to be notified out of respect to them. Mayor Vassel said the two Chairs can be notified. Town Manager Scaife said he will notify the Chairs of the two Town Parties. Councilor Moriarty thinks there should be a timeframe. Mayor Vassel would like to get this up and running by this November and Councilor Moriarty thinks this should be for after January 1, 2015. Mayor Vassel said for them to see how many people they get and he explained some more. Deputy Mayor Bell said there will only be one Town Council meeting in November. Mayor Vassel suggested a cutoff date of whatever that meeting date is for accepting the public's names. Finance Director Mehr said that meeting will be held on November 17, 2014.

Councilor MacDonald asked what the process will be for selecting the three Democrats and the two Republicans. Mayor Vassel said this will be a majority vote from the Town Council.

Councilor Moriarty said he wasn't told that. Councilor MacDonald hopes that the Minority Party will have input as to who will be on this Committee. Mayor Vasel asked Town Manager Scaife to seek an opinion from the Town Attorney about this. Town Manager Scaife said this is to be staffed with members from each of the Parties with a simple majority of the Party that is in power. Councilor MacDonald understands about the division of the five but he said that it won't be up to them (Republicans) as to who will get on this. This could easily be a six to three vote from the Republicans picking what Democrats they want on this Committee versus the Town Chair going through the Town Committee and proposing two names, if the Republicans are allowed two spots. Town Manager Scaife said the Statute for this is very clear and he gave the details of it. He had this verified with the Town Counsel today. The Town Charter will lay out a portion of this but the Statute will regulate the remainder of it. Councilor MacDonald asked if the five member count has found to be successful in the Towns that have recently gone through a Town Charter revision or if there would be a larger count in order to get more input. Mayor Vasel said this could be from five to fifteen members. He thinks that five is sufficient but he said they could talk about having seven. He asked the Town Council if they had any thoughts about this or he said they could wait until they get all of the applications to see how many they get. Councilor Moriarty thinks they have to decide on the number before they get the applications in. Councilor MacDonald will feel more comfortable with seven members compared to five and he gave a reason as to why. Deputy Mayor Bell, Councilor Moriarty, Councilor Kochanek, Councilor Szeps and Councilor Vargas all agreed. Councilor Casasanta mentioned how there had been five members for the Town Charter revision that had just been done in Newington and she said that she is good with five or seven. Mayor Vasel said it will be seven members. Councilor Moriarty made a motion with regards to this being seven members that Councilor MacDonald seconded but Mayor Vasel thought this item would have to be added to the agenda in order for a motion to be made. Mayor Vasel thought they could all agree that this will be seven. Councilor Szeps explained that these meetings will be held in public so the public can contribute to these meetings without being a member on it.

Approval of Minutes

A. Council Meeting – October 6, 2014

Deputy Mayor Bell made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 6, 2014 meeting of the Town Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Szeps and adopted by those present with Councilor Moriarty abstaining.

Subcommittee Reports

A. Finance

There was a meeting of the Finance Committee on October 15, 2014. Councilor Vargas said that \$18,100,000 of general obligation bonds at a rate of 2.76% were issued on October 15, 2014 by the William Blair Company.

The Finance Committee had a discussion about the Legal Bills. Town Manager Scaife is going to be asking the Town Attorney to submit the Legal Bills by Town department so that each

department can review these and approve them. The Legal Bills will then go to Town Manager Scaife for the final approval so there will be no need for the Town Council to do this in the future.

B. Public Safety

There was a meeting of the Public Safety Committee prior to this evening's Town Council one. The RHVAA will be holding a food drive at Stop and Shop on November 15, 2014, November 16, 2014, November 22, 2014 and November 23, 2014 for the benefit of the Human Services Food Bank.

The Microwave Radio Project of the RHPD will hopefully be done by January 1, 2015.

The RHFD and the RHVAA will both be getting new protective gear for infectious diseases. Deputy Mayor Bell explained some more.

The RHVAA has been using a Polaris UTV at soccer games and at RHHS football games, as well as for off-road emergencies (i.e. sandpits and Motocross, etc.). This has received some positive feedback.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2014.

C. Government Operations Committee

There isn't a scheduled Government Operations Committee meeting in November because of the fact that this will be the Monday before Election Day and there won't be a Town Council meeting that night either. Deputy Mayor Bell suspects that a special meeting of the Government Operations Committee might have to be called if something comes up with the Rocky Hill High School Renovate As New project. Councilor Moriarty said the week of Thanksgiving is the only time he would be able to attend a meeting.

D. Land Acquisition & Farmland Preservation

There was a meeting of the Open Space Land Acquisition & Farmland Preservation Subcommittee this evening. Councilor Szeps said the closing for the Hayes Farm was supposed to be today but this has been postponed for another week.

Councilor Szeps said that he and Councilor Kochanek will be meeting with Planimetrics which will be putting the Plan of Conservation and Development together for Rocky Hill. Councilor Szeps gave more details about that.

Elisabeth Moore (CT Farmland Trust) will be invited to a meeting of this Subcommittee because she will be working with them on their plan to pursue their next project for the farmland preservation effort.

E. Senior Affairs Committee

There was a meeting of the Senior Affairs Committee at 5:00 p.m. tonight. Councilor Vargas said they started discussing the survey results. Town Manager Scaife will be in the process of reviewing all of the space in the Town buildings on the Town campus as to how it is utilized and to compare that with what has come out of the senior survey. Councilor MacDonald asked if there is a way to get the Town Council a copy of the accumulation of that data and Councilor Vargas said yes.

Consent Agenda

Deputy Mayor Bell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Moriarty and adopted unanimously by those present.

A. Approval – Legal Bills

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town Council/Finance Committee hereby authorizes the payment of the following legal bills for services rendered.

Rome McGuigan, P.C.	\$20,641.43 (July)
	\$14,912.32 (Aug)
-holds from May/June Bills	\$ 1,496.00
Joseph Fasi LLC	\$ 0.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$37,049.75</u>

Other Services:

New Business

A. Discussion and Possible Action – Proposed Ordinance: Exemption for Horses and Ponies

Recent Statutes have been passed by the Legislature which will allow the Towns to exempt horses and ponies from taxation as personal property. Finance Director Mehr said the Town Assessor, Stuart Topliff, is requesting that Rocky Hill implement this. Rocky Hill only has two horses. Finance Director Mehr referred to the memorandum that Stuart Topliff has prepared with regards to this. Finance Director Mehr believes that the Town Council has to set a public hearing for its next meeting and to then have this moved forward.

Deputy Mayor Bell made a motion to set a public hearing for November 17, 2014 at 6:45 p.m. for the Proposed Ordinance: Exemption for Horses and Ponies. The motion was seconded by Councilor Moriarty and adopted by those present with Councilor Szepps abstaining.

B. Rocky Hill Teachers' Association Contract

Mayor Vasel asked if there were any comments or questions on this. (Please see the attachment.) Councilor MacDonald appreciated the good summary of changes to the contract that they had received today that Jennifer Allison (Chair of the Board of Education's Personnel and Negotiations Committee) had put together. Councilor MacDonald thinks there will be substantial savings in the long term to the Town. This is a very fair contract on both sides from what he read in the detailed contract. He commended Jennifer Allison and the entire Board of Education for the work they had done on this. He also encouraged Town Manager Scaife to look at the details of this.

C. Resolution for Small Business Saturday

Councilor Szeps made a motion to approve the Resolution – "Small Business Saturday". The motion was seconded by Councilor Moriarty and adopted unanimously by those present.

The Town of Rocky Hill acknowledges the social and economic value of shopping local and shopping small.

The Town of Rocky Hill wishes to recognize Small Business Saturday as the Saturday following Black Friday and before Cyber Monday.

The Town of Rocky Hill wishes to encourage all of our citizens to shop at local, small businesses that day.

The Town Council of the Town of Rocky Hill declares Saturday, November 29, 2014 as Small Business Saturday and extends best wishes to all participating small business enterprises in Town.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel read it aloud and in full. He thinks this is a great thing and it is an opportunity for them to keep their dollars in the Town that they live in. He hopes that everyone will think about supporting their local Town businesses as much as possible.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Mayor Vasel asked for a motion to have the Mayor's Report and Town Manager's Report moved up now before the Executive Session.

Councilor Moriarty made a motion to have Item X. (Mayor's Report) and Item XI. (Town Manager's Report) moved up ahead of Item IX. A. (Executive Session – Discussion of Personnel and Organizational Related Matters in Executive Session Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec 1-200 (6)(A) with the Town Manager). The motion was seconded by Councilor MacDonald and adopted unanimously by those present.

Mayor's Report

Four Girl Scouts in Town have received the Silver Award as of yesterday. Mayor Vasel explained what the Silver Award, which is one of the highest honors in Girl Scouts, is. Lilah Kelly and Katherine Stockman made fleece blankets for the Hole In The Wall Gang Camp. Amanda Mitchell held an activity at the Cora J. Belden Library for children to encourage them to get off of screen time and do a hands-on activity related to computer games. Christiana Montalbano made a PowerPoint presentation to capture a trip that the Girl Scout Troop had taken to Savannah, Georgia in order to visit the birthplace of the founder of the Girl Scouts. Mayor Vasel gave more details about what these four Girl Scouts had done. He said that the Town Council and the residents wanted to congratulate them.

Councilor Kochanek asked Mayor Vasel or anyone if they had a status on the foundry. Mayor Vasel said that the last thing he knew about this is that Ray Carpentino (Economic Development Director) is working on a question from a resident. Mayor Vasel said there were some environmental concerns but that had been a while ago. Councilor Kochanek said there is the interest of Tulisano Park and there is the demolition and construction of the Foundry. Nothing seems to be going anywhere yet with this. He asked where the Foundry is with regards to it going forward. Town Manager Scaife said he met last week with the Foundry owner and he will be having a debriefing by Planning and Code Enforcement Officials this Thursday to help him get up-to-speed on this property. Councilor Moriarty said there is still some litigation with this that is going on in Court but the lawsuits will be dropped hopefully.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Scaife said there were some significant happenings going on in Rocky Hill last week. The old Ames property sale was finalized. The Town will be working with this new owner in the weeks and months to come.

On Saturday evening, there had been a very successful Fall Fest.

For activities, Town Manager Scaife told the Town Council that they had a document in their packets with regards to the year-to-date budget and he is working with the Staff to have this revamped. This will get better over time.

Town Manager Scaife has found situations where the Town is going on private property to pick up solid waste items (i.e. rubbish) and to deliver things (i.e. compost). He has problems justifying that it is appropriate for the Town to leave the street and go on private property. He told people to come to him if they have gotten this service in the past but they are calling for it now and getting pushed back. He will be glad to discuss why this changed. It is critical that services will be available to all of the public with a good rationale as to why these services are offered and that the Town doesn't put itself in a position of liability on private property.

The Town Council had passed a Noise Ordinance on September 15, 2014. Town Manager Scaife said there are expectations in the public as to how and when, etc. this may be implemented but he wants to reset the clock as to the expectations. There is a State mandate that

the Commissioner of DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) must approve this before it becomes law and it will probably be a few weeks before they get this approval back. They are also working internally with Staff and Counsel to make sure that they are ready to implement the monitoring and the adherence to this Ordinance. A couple of areas are challenging. He told the Town Council that he will keep them informed and he told the public to contact him if they have any concerns or questions because they want to do this right the first time out.

Town Manager Scaife said he wanted to ask the Town Council for guidance with regards to Meeting Minutes versus Working Notes. The Statute regulates Minutes but it doesn't recognize Working Notes, which are a creation of this Town. The Statute mandates that Minutes must be out and available within forty-eight hours, at least in draft form. He understands in the past that the restricted version of Minutes had been published very promptly but then the Working Notes came at a later date. They are meeting the "letter of the law" but he doesn't think that it is very informative to the public to have the first document out within forty-eight hours. He told the Town Council that he wants their permission to go to a set of sufficiently complete Minutes to meet the public needs while meeting the legal requirements. Non-substantive content will be reduced. The law is that all substantive content be captured and this is certainly in the actions. They will also have the ability to archive the audio recording of these Minutes in perpetuity. He said it seems to him that they will be able to accomplish what they want to do with a more economical method. He would like to try this as an efficiency opportunity.

Mayor Vasel asked the Town Council if they had any comments. Councilor Moriarty said he is happy with the way the Minutes are. Mayor Vasel thinks they have been pretty lengthy. Councilor Moriarty said they are but that is what the meeting was. Mayor Vasel said the Minutes would get done a lot quicker with what is being proposed now so he thinks they should give this a try. Councilor Szeps and Councilor Casasanta are in support of this. Councilor Casasanta said since they have full audio available that she supports the restructuring of this. Councilor Moriarty said the audio has been lost at times.

Councilor MacDonald asked if Jo-Anne Booth would just be taking down what the key actions are at meetings or if she would still be keeping verbatim notes. Town Manager Scaife said this will be something between very abbreviated Minutes and what they have today. He referred to what the law is again. The Minutes are being kept in the vault currently and this audio would also be kept in the vault now. Councilor MacDonald asked about a copy of the audio being provided at the Cora J. Belden Library also because a lot of people go there to look at the Minutes now. Town Manager Scaife said they could certainly do that. Councilor MacDonald asked if they could try this one time to see if they like the actual result of the product. He said that he doesn't want to lose some of the key differences, etc. or key discussions they have had that are really important for the public to read.

Councilor Moriarty said this will come down to one person deciding what is or what isn't in the Minutes. He agrees that these have been lengthy and this is costing them money, etc. but he doesn't want anything to be lost. The reason they might not have too many comments about those is because of the fact that everything is in the Minutes.

Mayor Vassel suggested they try this and they can always ask for this to be done the old way if this is not what they are looking for. Councilor Kochanek said they should have both sets of Minutes done one time so that they can compare what it is that they have been getting to this new system. Councilor Vargas asked who will determine what comments will be going into the Minutes and she asked if Jo-Anne Booth is going to figure this out. Councilor Moriarty said they have to understand that they aren't going to take Jo-Anne Booth apart because some things don't go in the Minutes because it will be a trial and error for her too and the hard part will be for her. Mayor Vassel said absolutely and he said that both sets of Minutes could be done for this evening's meeting because it is a shorter one. Everybody agreed.

Councilor Moriarty referred to an article in the *Hartford Courant* today with regards to where people can list their properties and lease them. This website is www.Airbnb.com He gave an example of what was happening in West Hartford where someone was leasing two days to one person and then three days to another person even though the Zoning Regulations state that a lease has to be for thirty days. He then mentioned what West Hartford did about that. He suggested to the Town Council that they go on this website to see if this is being done in Rocky Hill.

Councilor Moriarty told Town Manager Scaife that he disagrees with him with regards to the picking up of the trash in Town and he referred to the elderly people in this Town who have no family members. He said that they have insurance in Town with regards to liability. This has been a service for a long time to the taxpayers in this Town and there have been no issues.

Executive Session

A. Discussion of Personnel and Organizational Related Matters in Executive Session Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 1-200 (6)(A) with the Town Manager

Councilor Szeps made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the Discussion of Personnel and Organizational Related Matters Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec 1-200 (6)(A) with the Town Manager. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Bell and adopted unanimously by those present.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Moriarty and adopted unanimously by those present.

Adjournment

Councilor Vargas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Moriarty and adopted unanimously by those present.

As there was no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth

